Cess on employers of unorganised sector

† 978. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to impose cess on the employers of the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is also a fact that Government wish to make provisions of dearness allowance for the workers of the private sector as well; and

(c) if so, by when a Bill containing the issues favouring the labourers would be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to impose cess on employers in the unorganised sector. However, the Government have set up Welfare Funds for certain categories of workers in the unorganised sector i.e. beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers by levying of cess on branded beedis and on production of specified non-coal minerals and feature films. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and the State Governments are appropriate Government to fix, revise and enforce minimum wages for the workers engaged in the scheduled employment under their respective jurisdiction. In order to protect minimum wages against inflation the Central Government and several State Governments have already introduced Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) which is linked to Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Cut-off limit of workers to close down industrial units

979. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN 'DURU': Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second National Commission on Labour has rejected Government's proposal for raising the cut-off limit of 300 workers to 1000 workers for an industrial unit to close down without prior permission of Government and recommended restoration of the original limit of 300 workers;

(b) if so, whether the Second National Commission on Labour has also recommended raising the compensation to retrenched, besides making

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.